

Unto Dame Brionna of Stanway, Chief Military Advisor to the Throne
From Field Marshall Brightspan, Expeditionary Force of the South

Honored Dame:

I write to you for three interrelated reasons.

1. To report that in general things are better than I feared they would be by this time of year. To wit:
 - a. Despite the desperate conditions, everyone appears to be fed, and sheltered from the lashing rain that, more than snow, characterizes the winter this far south. I must give partial credit for this for the extreme ingenuity and the work ethic of the refugees; partial credit to the generosity of the Empire and his Imperial Majesty; and partial credit to our trade partners in Cese Mai and elsewhere, who, despite their own circumstance have found time to share what they had with the refugees in a heartening show of solidarity.
 - b. I know I have complained of this before, please bear with me. We are spread too thin. The amount of territory we are trying to protect requires close to three times our numbers to cover in a barely adequate manner. I understand that is impossible, and so we have done everything we can, including encouraging the formation of local militias in partially finished towns and farming communities; training irregulars; separating our auxiliaries from the bodies of our armies to allow them to work alone; and, accepting a group of about 300 Warlord clan Skaven who have converted to Glor'diadel, and together with their Warlord Skarrit Bentblade offered themselves as an irregular unit to guard against both their own kind and bandits in the Southeast section of the refugee area, in exchange for the ability to move their females and ratlings to a safer location and a promise of religious service and training in both growing grain and controlling population. Let me assure you, they are fierce, but oooo are they irregular.
 - c. We are containing the bandits and gnoll raiders to only inflicting minor casualties. We cannot eradicate them however, or prevent all casualties.
2. We still cannot hope to provide religious service for all the new converts. I know that everything that can be done is being done, however, circuit priests are servicing a dozen small communities or more each and army chaplains are not trained to do that type of work, so they cannot relieve the duty priests. We also are finding it difficult to impossible to adequately protect priests as they move from town to town. Two have been slain during what looks to my men like botched robbery attempts. The rumor has spread that the priests carry money for the poor - which most do not - but it encourages banditry. Further, despite their obvious new found devotion, we are finding it nearly impossible to provide for SKarrit and his band. Weapons and rations? Yes. Religious training and care, no - and this becomes particularly difficult since Skarrit was formerly a favored servant of Chaos, by which I mean he was twice gifted with abominable gifts. His body constantly burns with bluish flames the heat from which is, forgive me, hellish. Prolonged contact with him will kill any normal man. His eyes are liquid pools of black oil

that somehow allow him tremendous advantages on the battlefield by giving him a very limited form of precognition, but add to his inhuman or unratlike appearance. When he converted to the Light, as fervently as he has ever followed Chaos, he assumed that these chaos features would vanish. They did not. Now, they seek to kill him. The chaplains and, without any attempt at grandissement, the paladins, have managed to stabilize him and block them temporarily from destroying him, BUT we lack the ability to reverse or remove the features, and make him a free servant of the Light. If that can be done I believe it will help our regard greatly.

3. We continue to see a steady influx of refugees from the north, well indirectly - and we are mostly managing to make the locals see them as fellow sufferers, refugees not unlike themselves. However, crime in general is increasing in the areas with the most displaced commons and the least displaced gentry at the least. That is one of the reasons I am spreading out the auxiliaries, but if we should face a real military threat, having us spread all over and them as well does not bode well. Our scouts see no threat, but... Even without an external threat, our actions are increasingly keeping the peace internally, and not finding the time to search out our enemies and the raiders. At the very least special units from his Imperial Majesty, even small groups of bounty hunters, would help.

Respectfully I submit this, in the Light.